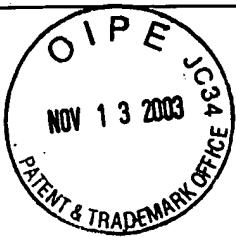


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November 13, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Mail Stop AF

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/227,881

Filed: January 11, 1999

Title: ***Nucleic Acids, Kits and Methods for the Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment of Glaucoma and Related Disorders***

Applicants: Thai D. NGUYEN *et al.*

Atty. Docket No.: 16491.066

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

1. a Response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2003, including Appendix A; and
2. a return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the USPTO stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. If, however, any fees are due in conjunction with this filing, including any extension of time fees required to prevent abandonment, then such extensions are hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the present filing to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16491.066.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel M. Freed, Ph.D." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joel M. Freed (Reg. Attorney No. 25,101)

David R. Marsh (Reg. No. (Reg. Attorney No. 41,408)

Joseph W. Ricigliano (Registered Patent Agent Reg. No. 48,511)

Attachments



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Thai D. Nguyen *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/227,881

Group Art Unit: 1635

Filed: January 11, 1999

Examiner: Schultz, James

For: *Nucleic Acids, Kits and Methods for the Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment of Glaucoma and Related Disorders*

Docket No.: 16491.066

Response to the Office Action Dated August 13, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Mail Stop AF

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2003, Applicants submit the following comments, amendments, and remarks.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this submission. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time or additional claims, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16491.066.

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Following entry of this amendment, claims 79-81 and 91-96 and 98-126 will be pending. Claim 97 has been cancelled by this amendment. Claims 92, 93, 95, 98, 99, 101, 104, 105, 107, 110, 111, 113, 116, 117, 119, 122, 123, and 125 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subjected matter.